

House File 2577 - Introduced

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BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2499)

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 706)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including requiring the boards of
2 directors of school districts and the governing boards of
3 charter schools to publish certain specified information,
4 modifying provisions related to required social studies
5 instruction, and providing civil penalties.
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL TRANSPARENCY

1
2 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 10, paragraph c,
3 subparagraph (2), unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2022, is amended
4 to read as follows:
5

6 If, after having an opportunity to correct, if permitted, a
7 school district is found to be in noncompliance with federal
8 education laws including but not limited to the federal
9 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the federal
10 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et
11 seq., as amended, the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, chapter
12 216, section 279.73, or section 279.74, or section 279.76,
13 the director shall recommend, and the state board ~~may~~ shall
14 do, one of the following within thirty days of the finding
15 of noncompliance, or within fourteen days if the finding of
16 noncompliance is for a violation of section 279.76:

17 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, Code 2022, is amended by adding the
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 19. a. If the department finds a school
20 district is not in compliance with section 279.76, the
21 department shall provide notice to the board of directors
22 of the school district indicating the school district's
23 noncompliance. The department shall allow the board of
24 directors of the school district at least fourteen days
25 after receipt of the notice of noncompliance to correct the
26 violation prior to taking any enforcement action pursuant to
27 subsection 10, paragraph "c". In addition to any enforcement
28 action taken pursuant to subsection 10, paragraph "c", if the
29 board of directors of the school district fails to correct the
30 violation within fourteen days after receipt of the notice of
31 noncompliance, the department shall assess a civil penalty
32 against the school district in an amount not less than five
33 hundred dollars and not more than five thousand dollars.
34 Revenue from the civil penalty provided in this paragraph
35 shall be remitted to the treasurer of state for deposit in the

1 general fund of the state.

2 **b.** The department shall provide notice to the board of
3 educational examiners indicating the identity of any individual
4 licensed under chapter 272 who violates section 279.76.

5 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2022, is amended
6 by adding the following new paragraph:

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oi.* Be subject to and comply with the
8 requirements of sections 279.76 and 279.77 in the same manner
9 as a school district.

10 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **279.76 Transparency and state**
11 **standards.**

12 1. The board of directors of a school district shall adopt
13 a policy describing the procedures for the parent or guardian
14 of a student enrolled in the school district to review the
15 instructional materials used in the student's classroom.

16 The policy shall include a process for the student's parent
17 or guardian to request that the student not be provided
18 with certain instructional materials. The policy shall be
19 prominently displayed on the school district's internet site
20 and the board of directors of the school district shall, at
21 least annually, provide a written or electronic copy of the
22 policy to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled
23 in the school district. For purposes of this section,
24 "*instructional materials*" means either printed or electronic
25 textbooks and related core materials that are written and
26 published primarily for use in elementary school and secondary
27 school instruction and are required by a state educational
28 agency or local educational agency for use by students in the
29 student's classes by the teacher of record.

30 2. The school district shall provide the parent or guardian
31 of a student enrolled in the school district with all of the
32 following information related to the current school year:

33 **a.** A course syllabus or written summary of the material that
34 will be taught in the student's classes.

35 **b.** How the student's classes meet or exceed the educational

1 standards established pursuant to section 256.11.

2 *c.* A list of all instructional materials that will be used
3 in the student's classes.

4 3. The school district may satisfy the requirements of
5 subsection 2 by providing the parent or guardian of a student
6 enrolled in the school district with an option to view the
7 materials described in subsection 2 electronically or by
8 providing the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in
9 the school district with view-only access to the materials
10 described in subsection 2 on the classroom management software
11 platform used by the school district. By July 1, 2024, the
12 school district shall satisfy the requirements of subsection
13 2 by providing the parent or guardian of a student enrolled
14 in the school district with view-only access to the materials
15 described in subsection 2 on the classroom management software
16 platform used by the school district.

17 4. If the materials described in subsection 2 are modified
18 during the school year, the school district shall update the
19 information maintained under subsection 3 within seven days
20 after the modification occurs to reflect the use of the new
21 materials.

22 5. The school district shall make available to the parent
23 or guardian of a student enrolled in the school district a
24 comprehensive list of all books available to students in
25 libraries operated by the school district by providing a link
26 on the school district's internet site to the electronic
27 catalog of the books available in the libraries operated by the
28 school district. However, for school years beginning prior to
29 July 1, 2025, if the school district does not use an electronic
30 catalog, the school district may request a waiver from this
31 requirement from the department of education.

32 6. The school district shall provide instructions on the
33 school district's internet site showing the procedures or
34 policies in effect for the parent or guardian of a student
35 enrolled in the school district to request the reconsideration

1 or removal of a book that is available to students in a library
2 operated by the school district. The school district shall
3 display the form for requesting reconsideration or removal of a
4 book prominently on the school district's internet site.

5 7. The board of directors of a school district shall provide
6 instructions related to how to access the information described
7 in subsections 2, 3, and 5 in a notice to the parent or guardian
8 of each student enrolled in the school district prior to the
9 start of each school year.

10 8. The school district shall publish on the school
11 district's internet site information related to the training
12 and professional development courses and programs offered by
13 the school district in which employees of the school district
14 have participated during the current school year.

15 9. This section shall not be construed to require the school
16 district to do any of the following:

17 a. Reproduce educational materials that were not created
18 by a teacher employed by the board of directors of the school
19 district.

20 b. Distribute any educational materials in a manner that
21 would infringe on the intellectual property rights of any
22 person.

23 **Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 279.77 Protocols for the selection,**
24 **review, reconsideration, and removal of materials from libraries.**

25 The board of directors of a school district shall adopt
26 protocols for the selection, review, reconsideration, and
27 removal of materials from libraries operated by the school
28 district. The protocols shall require all of the following:

29 1. A process for the selection, reconsideration, and
30 removal of materials from libraries operated by the school
31 district.

32 2. A process for a parent or guardian of a student enrolled
33 in the school district to request that specific library
34 materials not be checked out by the student.

35 3. The lawful and ethical use of information resources,

1 including regarding plagiarism and intellectual property
2 rights.

3 4. A process that allows the parent or guardian of a student
4 enrolled in the school district to request the reconsideration
5 or removal of materials from a library operated by the school
6 district. The process shall be prominently displayed on the
7 school district's internet site and shall require all of the
8 following:

9 a. Within fifteen business days after a parent's or
10 guardian's submission of a request to reconsider or remove
11 materials from a library operated by the school district, or on
12 or before a later date if the school district and the parent or
13 guardian agree in writing, the school district shall conduct
14 a review of the materials described in the request and make a
15 recommendation to the board of directors of the school district
16 regarding the materials described in the request. The school
17 district shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of the
18 school district's recommendation to the board of directors of
19 the school district.

20 b. The board of directors of the school district shall
21 act on the recommendation described in paragraph "a" at the
22 next regularly scheduled meeting of the board of directors but
23 no later than thirty business days after the recommendation
24 is received, or on or before a later date if the board of
25 directors of the school district and the parent or guardian
26 agree in writing. The board of directors of the school
27 district shall notify the parent or guardian in writing
28 of its decision to affirm or reverse the school district's
29 recommendation.

30 c. The parent or guardian may appeal the decision of the
31 board of directors of the school district under paragraph "b" to
32 the state board of education pursuant to section 290.1.

33 d. If the school district or the board of directors of
34 the school district fails to act on a parent's or guardian's
35 request to reconsider or remove materials from a library

1 updates to these materials.

2 New Code section 279.76 requires a school district to
3 make available to parents and guardians a list of all books
4 available to students in libraries operated by the school
5 district. The bill establishes how a school district is to
6 make this list available.

7 New Code section 279.76 requires a school district to
8 provide instructions on the school district's internet site
9 showing the procedures or policies in effect for parents and
10 guardians to request the reconsideration or removal of a book
11 that is in a library operated by the school district.

12 New Code section 279.76 requires a school district to
13 publish information related to the training and professional
14 development offered by the school district in which employees
15 of the school district have participated.

16 The bill provides that the requirements of new Code section
17 279.76 apply to charter schools established pursuant to Code
18 chapter 256E.

19 Current Code section 256.11(10) requires the state board
20 of education to establish an accreditation, monitoring,
21 and enforcement process for school districts. The bill
22 provides that compliance with new Code section 279.76 shall
23 be considered as part of that process. The bill authorizes
24 the department of education to assess a civil penalty against
25 a school district if the department finds that the school
26 district is in violation of new Code section 279.76, and the
27 school district does not correct the violation within the
28 timelines established in the bill.

29 The bill creates new Code section 279.77, which requires
30 the board of directors of a school district to adopt protocols
31 for the selection, review, reconsideration, and removal of
32 materials from libraries operated by the school district. The
33 bill establishes what the protocols are to require. The bill
34 requires the board of directors of a school district to create
35 a document that illustrates the procedure for a parent or

1 guardian to request the reconsideration or removal of a book
2 that is in a library operated by the school district. The bill
3 provides that the requirements of new Code section 279.77 apply
4 to charter schools established pursuant to Code chapter 256E.

5 DIVISION II — SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION. Under current
6 law, the educational program established pursuant to Code
7 section 256.11 is required to include, in grades 9 through 12,
8 five units of social studies, one-half unit of which is to
9 consist of instruction in United States government. The bill
10 provides that this one-half unit of United States government
11 shall include an assessment of the student's knowledge of
12 United States government and civics. The bill provides that
13 the most recent version of the civics test developed by the
14 United States citizenship and immigration services shall be
15 used as the assessment. The bill requires each school district
16 and accredited nonpublic school to submit the results of the
17 civics test to the department of education by June 30 of each
18 year.